

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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S E C R E T RABAT 1749

FOR NEA/AFN ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP MO
SUBJECT: INPUT FOR BRIEFING MATERIALS FOR UNDER SECRETARY HABIB'S
VISIT

1. IN PREPARING BRIEFING MATERIALS FOR UNDER SECRETARY HABIB,
THE DESK MAY WISH TO DRAW FROM SOME OF THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS
SUBMITTED BY ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION.

2. POLITICAL ITEMS:

A. MOROCCAN MODERATION: HABIB COULD EXPRESS OUR APPRE-
CIATION FOR THE MODERATE ROLE MOROCCO HAS CONSISTENTLY PLAYED
WITH RESPECT TO MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS AND IN PARTICULAR
IN SUPPORT OF EGYPT. FAVORABLE REFERENCE COULD ALSO BE MADE
TO MOROCCAN MODERATION ON PUERTO RICO AND KOREA.

B. SAHARA/ALGERIA: HABIB COULD MAKE THE POINT THAT WE
ARE PLEASED THAT TENSIONS IN THE AREA HAVE BEEN KEPT BELOW
THE BOILING POINT, AND HE MIGHT ENCOURAGE CONTINUED RESTRAINT.

C. INTERNAL POLITICS: HABIB COULD NOTE THE ONGOING
ELECTORAL PROCESS AND OFFER ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CONTINUED
DEMOCRATIZATION.

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D. US MILITARY PRESENCE: DEPENDING ON WHERE THINGS
STAND AT THE TIME HE ARRIVES, HABIB COULD ADDRESS THE
FOLLOWING TOPICS:

-- KENITRA: EXPRESS US APPRECIATE FOR MOROCCO'S
COOPERATION OVER THE YEARS REGARDING THIS COMPLEX.
-- GEODSS: EXPRESS US APPRECIATION FOR THE GOM'S

WILLINGNESS TO ACCOMMODATE THIS FACILITY.

-- SHIP VISITS: EXPRESS US APPRECIATION FOR MOROCCO'S
WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE OUR (CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR-POWERED)
SHIPS AND CREWS.

E. AMONG OTHER "POLITICAL" SUBJECTS ON WHICH WE ASSUME
HABIB WILL BE BRIEFED (ON
AT LEAST AN IF-ASKED BASIS) ARE HUMAN RIGHTS, ARMS
SALES TO MOROCCO, INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION, MOROCCO'S NUCLEAR
INSPECTION PROPOSAL, VOA, GOM CONCERNS RE SOVIET INROADS
IN AFRICA, AND TANGIER MUSEUM PROJECT.

3. ECONOMIC ITEMS:

A. NEW US ATTITUDE TOWARDS COMMODITIES AGREEMENTS:

UNDER SECRETARY COOPER, SPEAKING BEFORE THE SENATE ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON MARCH 18, ENDORSED THE CONCEPT OF A
WELL-THOUGH-OUT POOLING ARRANGEMENT TO EVEN OUT SWINGS IN
VOLATILE COMMODITY PRICES. MOROCCO AND THE US TOGETHER
ACCOUNT FOR OVER 80 PERCENT OF WORLD PHOSPHATE ROCK
RESOURCES -- MOST OF THE REST BEING LOCATED IN THE USSR.
THE GOM HAS SEVERAL TIMES IN THE RECENT PAST ASKED THE US
TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME SUCH ARRANGEMENTS FOR
PHOSPHATES, AND THE COOPER STATEMENT--WHICH HAS BEEN
WIDELY DISTRIBUTED BY USIS--WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE READ
WITH ATTENTION HERE. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT OCP DIRECTOR
LAMRANI SENT TO WASHINGTON WITH AMBASSADOR ANDERSON ONLY
A FEW DAYS AGO A WRITTEN PROPOSAL FOR US-MOROCCAN
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COOPERATION TO REDUCE FLUCTUATIONS IN PHOSPHATE PRICES,
THE UNDER SECRETARY MAY WISH TO COME PREPARED TO RESPOND
TO POSSIBLE APPROACHES ON THIS TOPIC FROM THE MOROCCANS
HE WILL BE SEEING.

B. QUESTION OF US PHOSPHATE DUMPING: MOROCCAN
OFFICIALS AND NEWSPAPERS HAVE CHARGED OVER THE PAST SEVERAL
MONTHS THAT DUMPING BY US PHOSPHATIC FERTILIZER AND
CHEMICALS PRODUCERS IN EUROPE HAS CREATED MAJOR FINANCIAL
PROBLEMS FOR MOROCCO. DRAWING ON STATE 229912, WE HAVE
COUNTERED THESE CHARGES AS OCCASION PERMITTED. ON
MARCH 15, 1977, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL CARRIED AN
ARTICLE CITING THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE US PHOSPHATE
CHEMICALS EXPORT ASSOCIATION ACKNOWLEDGING THAT US
PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER EXPORTERS ARE, INDEED, SELLING
THEIR PRODUCTS OVERSEAS AT PRICES BELOW THOSE CHARGED
IN THE US. SINCE THESE MATTERS ARE WATCHED VERY CLOSELY
IN MOROCCO, THE UNDER SECRETARY SHOULD COME PREPARED TO
RESPOND IN THE EVENT QUESTIONS ON THIS TOPIC ARE

RAISED.

C. HABIB SHOULD ALSO BE BRIEFED ON LAND CASES, TWO
WESTINGHOUSE PROJECTS, AND PL-480.
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